

11 Experiments That Failed

- **Bibliographic Information:**
Author: Jenny Offill
Illustrator: Nancy Carpenter
Publisher: Schwartz & Wade Books
Copyright Date: 2011
- **Summary:** This book is about young girl that is really curious about the world around her. She asks many questions, makes predictions, and performs experiments to test her hypotheses. Her experiments are silly and entertaining, while still following the scientific process.
- **Awards:** 2013 Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award
- **Review:** From *Kirkus Reviews* in a starred review: "This is a most joyful and clever whimsy, the kind that lightens the heart and puts a shine on the day."
- **Author Information:** Jenny Offill - <http://jennyoffill.com/about/>
- **Illustrator Information:** Nancy Carpenter
<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/carpenter.html>
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - **Pre-reading questions:**
 - 1) From the back cover, what is one of the experiments the girl did?
 - 2) From the front cover, what experiment do you think she did with those materials?
 - 3) What other kinds of experiments do you think the girl did in this book?
 - 4) Why do you think this book is called 11 Experiments that Failed?
 - **Questions during reading:**
 - 1) What do you think will happen in this experiment?
 - 2) What could you do differently to make this experiment work?
 - 3) How do you think her mother will react to this experiment?
 - **Post-reading questions:**
 - 1) Which experiment in the book was your favorite? Why?
 - 2) Have you ever done an experiment before? What was it? What did you learn?
 - 3) Have you ever failed at something before? What did you do in response?
- **Curricular Activities:**
 - **Reading/Oral Language** – students research about a famous person that failed at first, and present it to the class.
 - **Writing** – students rewrite an experiment from the book so that it could succeed: include question, hypothesis, materials, and procedure.
 - **Math** – students can do a science experiment with math integrated in through measuring and calculating.

- **Science** – students use the scientific method to complete a science experiment.
 - **Social Studies** – students learn about famous/inspiring people from history who failed at first.
 - **Art** – students create art similar to the illustrations of Nancy Carpenter using drawings of people and animals, real pictures of objects and backgrounds, and scraps of patterned paper.
 - **Drama** – students act out the experiments in the book, making sure to act out the reactions of the different characters.
 - **Cooking Food** – students can do science experiments involving food.
 - **Technology** – students can do virtual experiments online (see the websites at the end of the document).
 - **Music** – students can have the option of creating a song about the scientific method, or the teacher can teach the students a song about the scientific method.
- **Related Books:**
 - *How to Think Like a Scientist: Answering Questions by the Scientific Method* written by Stephen P. Kramer and illustrated by Felicia Bond
 - *Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method: More Than 100 Hands-On Science Experiments for Children* written and illustrated by Sally Kneidel
 - *Mad Margaret Experiments with the Scientific Method* written by Eric Braun and illustrated by Robin Boyden
 - *What is a Scientist?* written by Barbara Lehn and photographs by Carol Krauss
 - *What is Science?* Written by Rebecca Kai Dotlich and illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa
- **Other Books Written by Jenny Offill**
 - *17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore*
 - *The Friend Who Got Away*
 - *Last Things*
- **Other Books Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter:**
 - *17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore* (written by Jenny Offill)
 - *Lucky Ducklings* (written by Eva Moore)
 - *Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books* (written by Kay Winters)
 - *Masai and I* (written by Virginia L. Kroll)
 - *Sitti's Secrets* (written by Naomi Shihab Nye)
 - *Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems* (written by Kristine O'Connell George)
 - *Lighthouse Christmas* (written by Tony Buzzeo)
 - *Heroes of the Surf* (written by Elisa Carbone)
 - *Lester's Dog* (written by Karen Hesse)
 - *Washing the Willow Tree* (written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin)
 - *A Sister's Wish* (written by Kate Jacobs)
 - *Can You Dance, Dalila?* (written by Virginia L. Kroll)
 - *Summer Camp Ready or Not!* (written by Sandra Belton)

- **Websites:**

- General Science Games: http://sciencegames.4you4free.com/general_science.html
This website has a lot of games and activities for teachers to use in their classroom when teaching about the scientific method.
- Science Bob: <http://www.sciencebob.com/index.php>
Science Bob provides science videos for students to watch in class, lists of cool science experiment ideas, and many links to other science websites to help students research.
- The Hobby Shop: <http://www.knowitall.org/hobbyshop/siteAgentMain.html>
The Hobby Shop is completely interactive, where students can explore and learn about many different science concepts through interactive experiments. There are also links to teacher resources and classroom activities.
- 16 Most Inspiring Famous Failures: <http://ezinearticles.com/?16-Most-Inspiring-Famous-Failures&id=862208>
This article gives a list of 16 famous inspiring people that failed at first. The book shows students that it is okay to fail and that they should keep trying. The article will help further enforce that idea.